

VZCZCXRO0056
OO RUEHDBU RUEHPW RUEHSL
DE RUEHBUL #0024 0040934
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
O 040934Z JAN 10 ZDK
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4452
INFO RUCNAFG/AFGHANISTAN COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 000024

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/04/2020
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [KTIP](#) [KDEM](#) [AF](#)
SUBJECT: MINISTER SPANTA OFFERS TO DISCUSS HUMAN
TRAFFICKING WITH FRONTLINE

Classified By: D/AMB Francis Ricciardone for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

11. (C) On December 30, Charge d'Affaires Ricciardone briefed Foreign Minister Spanta on Frontline's upcoming program investigating "bacha bazi" in Afghanistan. Charge Ricciardone told FM Spanta that the program, which will air on January 19, would draw increased world attention and criticism to the practice of men purchasing and exploiting young boys. The Charge reiterated the importance of the U.S. and Afghanistan doing more to combat human trafficking, including the sale of young boys for sexual exploitation, in Afghanistan.

12. (C) Charge Ricciardone suggested the Afghan government follow up the publication of the 2008 anti-trafficking law by launching a public awareness campaign to warn at-risk populations of the dangers of trafficking, and to warn potential traffickers of the consequences. Ricciardone reinforced that the U.S. hopes to see more use of the anti-trafficking law, including increased prosecutions, convictions, and imprisonment of people who engage in trafficking.

13. (C) Minister Spanta responded by offering to speak with Frontline on behalf of the Afghan government. We believe this would be both a way to inject the Afghan government's perspective into the news report and a useful opportunity to get a senior government official to publicly commit to working to end this abuse. The Embassy will work with SCA/A to facilitate a meeting or other communication between Frontline and FM Spanta as appropriate.
RICCIARDONE